Channel was required to conform to the revised guidelines for News & Current Affairs Channels by 25th June, 2003. M/s. Media Content & Communications Services (India) Pvt. Ltd. (MCCS) applied to this Ministry for uplinking of Star News Channel on 20th June, 2003. The application was forwarded to Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Department of Space (DOS) for comments/clearance on 25th June, 2003. As M/s. MCCS had applied to the Ministry for permission to uplink from India in prescribed format, they were given temparary uplinking permission for one week on 25th June, 2003 which was subsequently renewed upto 7th August, 2003. The temporary uplinking permission was given in view of the pendency of the application which is under examination.

Recording of evidence of witness through Video Conferencing

2334. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has held that recording of evidence of witness even those residing abroad by Video Conferencing is permissible;

(b) whether Government have considered its implications; and

(c) whether this needs amendment of the relevant laws and rules etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) According to the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, video-conferencing has been allowed. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has effected amendment to Section 167 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 (Central Act of 1974).

It is upto the State Governments to effect amendment to the related Criminal Procedure Code in consultation with the High Courts. In case of any doubt in this regard, they seek the advice of the Central Government/Supreme Court.